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1. Preliminary training in the USSR for individuals under draft age is designed to give prospective service personnel the basic concepts of military service. Military training areas (voyenno-uchebnye punkty) were established at the rayon military commissariat by the order of the oblast military commissariat. The number of training areas in any particular rayon depends upon the number of persons available for instruction. As a rule, the training was planned for the time of year when there was not much work to do in the fields. This was usually in March, April and May. Training sessions were held yearly.
2. Prior to the arrival of the recruits, each rayon prepared the quarters, classrooms, text books, visual aids, and selected its training cadre from available officers and NCO's. When the students reported to the assembly areas on the scheduled day, they carried their own food, linen and toilet articles. The chief of the military training area assembled the recruits into platoons and squads and then turned them over to the officers and NCO's in charge of instruction.
3. The students were taught such basic subjects as firing, tactics, close order drill and physical training. Ten hours of political training were added to the original 110 hours of training. About 10 to 12 days were allotted to the training sessions. At the completion of the course, all students

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were released and returned to their homes and jobs. Persons under draft age who were subject to this training, but who were studying or attending a labor reserve school, were not required to undergo this training. They were required however, to study military subjects at their respective schools.

4. Those students who were attending ten-year (secondary) schools, technical schools and universities were given deferments until they completed their education. Individuals who were declared unfit for military service by a medical examining committee also were not inducted.

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The organization of the military training areas made it practically impossible to conduct satisfactory instruction; such important factors as instructional and living conditions were overlooked and did not satisfy the requisites for good military training. Training aids, service regulation manuals, charts, placards, training dummies and training weapons were insufficient for proper training.

6. Because of these insufficiencies, students were indifferent and only reported to the training areas because it was compulsory. Officers and NCO's who had been taken away from their regular jobs and who were detailed as instructors had the same indifferent attitude. However, the military commissariats always reported to their superiors that the training sessions were completed and satisfactory.

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